

EXPLANATION OF THE TRADE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

(INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA)

The Emergency Steel Relief Act of 1999 is one option to enhance U.S. law to better respond to surges of foreign imports that injure U.S. industries and their workers. This legislation makes prospective changes in U.S. trade laws to bring these laws in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and establishes an import monitoring program for steel.

The Trade Fairness Act of 1999 consists of the following two sections: first, the legislation lowers the threshold for establishing injury in safeguard actions under Section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act; and second, it establishes an import monitoring program to monitor the amount of foreign steel coming into the U.S. on a more timely basis.

1. **Safeguard Actions:** The legislation amends Section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act, which allows the President to provide appropriate relief to a U.S. industry if the International Trade Commission (ITC) finds that the industry has been seriously injured and that injury has been substantially caused by imports.

Current law requires that imports are a substantial cause of injury to U.S. industry. Our WTO obligation requires only that imports be a cause of injury (i.e. it need not be a 'substantial' cause). The bill deletes the term 'substantial' from the causation standard.

Current law requires that imports are "not less than any other cause" of injury. This is an unnecessarily high standard. The bill clarifies that in order to gain relief there only needs to be a causal link between imports and the injury.

The bill also includes in U.S. law the factors to be considered by the ITC, as established by the WTO, to determine whether the U.S. industry has suffered serious injury. These factors include: the rate and amount of the increase in imports of the product concerned in absolute and relative terms; the share of the domestic market taken by increased imports; changes in the levels of sales; production; productivity; capacity utilization; profits and losses; and, employment.

2. **Steel Import Monitoring Program:** The bill establishes a steel import permit and monitoring program. In order to gain relief under U.S. trade laws, domestic industries must demonstrate that unfairly traded imports have caused injury. This requires complex factual and economic analysis of import data. Currently, such data has not been available on a timely basis. This data has become public several months after the imports have arrived in the U.S., thus allowing unfairly traded imports to cause significant damage in many cases before the data is available for even a preliminary analysis.

The steel import permit and monitoring system, which is modeled on similar systems currently in use in Canada and Mexico, would allow the U.S. government to receive and analyze critical import data in a more timely manner and allow industry to determine more quickly whether unfair imports are disrupting the market.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MIAMI BEACH REMEMBERS
COMMISSIONER ABE RESNICK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a special tribute was held at the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach in memory of former Miami Beach Commissioner Abe Resnick who passed away late last year after decades of great contributions to the South Florida community.

Commissioner Resnick's life exemplifies the achievement of the American dream through hard work, perseverance and dedication. Born in Lithuania in 1924, Commissioner Resnick was a survivor of the Holocaust after successfully escaping from a Nazi concentration camp in Lithuania. Not forgetting those who continue suffering under Nazi repression, he joined the Resistance and bravely fought to defeat the Nazi regime. Commissioner Resnick later left Europe with his family to settle in Cuba where years later he had to flee repression again, this time from the Communist regime of Fidel Castro.

Arriving in the United States, he soon began a prominent and successful career as a leading real estate developer in South Florida, while remaining an active participant of the Jewish and Cuban-American communities of South Florida. One of his achievements was the realization of the construction of a Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach that will forever serve as a shrine to all those who perished in that tragic period of human history.

In 1985, Mr. Resnick was elected as commissioner of the city of Miami Beach and later also served as vice-mayor of the city where he continued his good works for the progress of our community.

South Florida will forever remember the positive and lasting contributions of Commissioner Abe Resnick.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CALIFORNIA
STATE SENATOR QUENTIN L.
KOPP

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to one of the most remarkable legislators in the history of the great golden State of California—the Honorable Quentin L. Kopp.

An independent by political affiliation and by personal nature, Quentin Kopp is a San Francisco institution. His 27 years in public office began with his service as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He has served on virtually every local government policy-making body in the Bay Area, in addition to his accomplished career as a practicing trial lawyer. Quentin's record includes a herculean effort to bring the 1985 Superbowl and the summer Olympic Games to our area. He continued his distinguished public service as a

January 20, 1999

member of the California State Senate, where his prodigious 12-year tenure was only curtailed this past year by voter-mandated term limits.

A fiscal conservative, Quentin guards the public purse as zealously as he guards his own. He is a public reformer who has insisted upon open government, campaigns that fully disclose contributions, and the elimination of conflicts of interest. Furthermore, he possesses a vocabulary that dwarfs Noah Webster's and a rhetorical style that rival Daniel Webster's. He is rightly renowned for his ability to simultaneously please, baffle, inspire, and incite his loyal constituency.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the State Senate Committee on Transportation, Quentin Kopp has amassed an enviable legislative record: creation of the California High Speed Rail Authority, development of the 1989 Transportation Blueprint for the 21st Century, coordination of public transit agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, and securing funding for the seismic retrofitting of the Bay Area's bridges. Senator Kopp's longtime and articulate advocacy of the extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system to San Francisco International Airport—a critical issue which has involved many of our colleagues in this House—has been vital in assuring Bay Area residents their desire to have Bart to the Airport!

Quentin Kopp's imposing height, unforgettable visage, and booming voice, infused with tones of his native Syracuse, New York, heralds his legendary tardy public appearances. But all of us have found that it is worth the wait to hear Quentin's views on public issues. He has an innate understanding of Abraham Lincoln's caution that "you cannot please all of the people all of the time," and this has produced in him the predilection for honest and unedited dialogue which is so appreciated by his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the legislative branch's loss is the judicial branch's gain. Senator Quentin Kopp is now addressed as the Honorable Quentin Kopp, Judge of the Superior Court of San Mateo County, a position to which he was appointed on January 2 of this year. Quentin does not need the judicial robe to augment his commanding, magisterial presence, but all of us in San Mateo County will benefit from his willingness to exercise wit and wisdom in his new post.

It is my sincere wish, Mr. Speaker, that Judge Kopp will find intellectual satisfaction, professional fulfillment and personal happiness in this new opportunity to continue his public service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING
PRESERVATION MATCHING
GRANT OF 1999

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Housing Preservation Matching Grant of 1999, which would authorize the Secretary of HUD to make grants to States to